

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/352,192

Applicant(s)

HILL ET AL.

Examiner

Kimberly D. Nguyen

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed 16 June 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12 July 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. Acknowledgement is made of Amendment filed 16 June 2004.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. James Potthast on 24 August 2004.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Re claim 2: The embossed card package production apparatus of claim 36 1 in which the information stored apart from the card is information used to produce the card.

Re claim 3: The embossed card production system of claim 37 2 in which the automatically determining means compares at least one of (a) embossed information read from the card, (b) magnetically encoded information read from the card with the stored card information.

Below is a proposed set of claims:

1. In an embossed card package production apparatus having means for producing cards, means for automatically inserting the cards into matching card carrying mailing forms, and a memory

Art Unit: 2876

for storing stored card information apart from the card and the carrying mailing forms, the improvement being a verification system, comprising:

means for automatically determining when a card has been incorrectly prepared by comparing information carried by the card with the information stored apart from the cards and the carrying mailing forms; and

means for preventing a card automatically determined to be incorrectly prepared from being inserted into a matching carrier.

2. The embossed card package production apparatus of claim 1 in which the information stored apart from the card is information used to produce the card.

3. The embossed card production system of claim 2 in which the automatically determining means compares at least one of (a) embossed information read from the card, (b) magnetically encoded information read from the card with the stored card information.

4. In an embossed card packaged production apparatus having means for producing cards, means for inserting the cards into matching card carrying mailing forms, and a memory for storing card information apart from the card and the carrying mailing forms, a method of verification, comprising the steps of:

determining when a card has been incorrectly prepared by comparing information carried by the card with the information stored apart from the cards and the carrying mailing forms; and

preventing a card automatically determined to be incorrectly prepared from being inserted into a matching carrier.

5. The method of claim 4 including the step of using the information stored apart from the card to produce the card.

Art Unit: 2876

6. The method of claim 5 in which the step of determining includes the step of comparing at least one of (a) the embossed information read from the card and (b) magnetically encoded information read from the card with the stored card information.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-6 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The record of prior art fails to teach an embossed card package production apparatus having means for producing cards, means for automatically inserting the cards into matching card carrying mailing forms, and a memory for storing stored card information apart from the card and the carrying mailing forms, the improvement being a verification system, including means for automatically determining when a card has been incorrectly prepared by comparing information carried by the card with the information stored apart from the cards and the carrying mailing forms; and means for preventing a card automatically determined to be incorrectly prepared from being inserted into a matching carrier.

Hill et al. (US 4,034,210) teaches credit card carriers and methods of manufacture having single sheet, multi-panel carriers for receiving and retaining credit cards during credit card issue and mailing procedures. Cards may be inserted in the carriers manually or by machine, wherein carrier forms are preferably provided in a continuous fan-folded web, and individual carriers are separable therefrom at perforations between subsequent and/or adjacent carriers.

D'Entremont et al. (US 5,646,388) teaches systems and methods for manufacturing and inspecting documents having information recorded thereon are described that can include a visual inspection cell, a recording unit, and a packaging unit.

However, Hill et al. and D'Entremont et al., fails to teach or fairly suggest means for automatically determining when a card has been incorrectly prepared by comparing information carried by the card with the information stored apart from the cards and the carrying mailing forms; and means for preventing a card automatically determined to be incorrectly prepared from being inserted into a matching carrier.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly D. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2402. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


Art Unit: 2876

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



KDN

24 August 2004



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